

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00741 191419Z

51

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 EUR-12 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4564

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 0741

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BGEN, BY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LEASE OF BOEING 737 BY BURUNDI

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1. SEVERAL EUROPEAN EXPERTS HERE WHO ARE CONNECTED WITH GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI REPORT THAT RUMORS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING INSISTENTLY FOR A WEEK THAT GRB IS ABOUT TO LEASE OR BUY A BOEING 737. I HAVE TOLD INQUIRERS THAT, ALTHOUGH I HAD INFORMATION INFORMALLY FROM AF/C BURUNDI DESK OFFICER THAT GRB MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN CHARTERING ONE BOEING 727 FOR FREIGHT HAULAGE, I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT PROGRESS OF SUCH PROJECT NOR INTEREST IN 737.

2. POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DETAILS ON GRB ACTIVITIES RETATIVE TO AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION. FRENCH HAVE PROMISED GIFT OF CARABELLE PLUS CREW SERVICES AND SPARE PARTS FOR FIRST HALF OF 1975. WHILE EVEN THIS WILL PROBABLY BE NET BURDEN ON BURUNDI NATIONAL AIRLINE (STAB) BECAUSE OF HIGH OPERATING COSTS AND INEFFICIENT PROCEDURES, LEASE OF ANY BOEING (TO SAY NOTHING OF PURCHASE), EXCEPT FOR SHORT PERIOD TO CARRY HIGH VALUE FREIGHT, WOULD BE GREAT DRAIN ON ALREADY SHARPLY DETERIORATING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND HARD CURRENCY RESERVES POSITIONS.
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Message Attributes

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